

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed on January 27, 2009, where applicant amended claims 1-18,20-22. Claims 1-18,20-22 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, filed 1/27/09, with respect to previous rejection dated 10/27/08 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-18,20-22 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants invention of usage of an object store in an instant messaging application, is found to be patentable. Prior art references found to be pertinent to Applicants disclosure (such as in the current and previous Form 892's), either only teach minor aspects of the invention or only teach the general environment of the invention. The collective prior art, either singly or in combination, do not teach the claim limitations.

The primary reason for allowance is the novelty of a client generating a hash of an object data communicated from a remote user, the object data representing a remote user in the instant messaging application and comprising metadata descriptive of the object data. The object data is stored at a storage location in the local cache of the client computing device, wherein the location of the object data in the local cache corresponds to the hash value. An object name of

the object data is returned to the instant messaging application, the object name comprising the hash value and a location field and enabling access of the object data in the local cache by the instant messaging application without a portion of the object data being altered at the client computing, device.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAMY M. OSMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ramy M Osman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2457

March 1, 2009